

Sustainable Homes

A New Direction

Sustainable Homes is embarking on an exciting new phase. Not only have we been successful in securing funding from the Housing Corporation to deliver three projects in 2006/07, we are also looking to take the project in a new direction, establishing it as a social business.

The Housing Corporation projects consist of:

- A series of six training seminars and support guide for the EcoHomes methodology for existing buildings (EcoHomes XB).
- Research into the development of environmental/sustainability policies by housing associations.
- A review and upgrade of the Sustainable Homes website.

More details on these projects and how you can get involved are

on pages 2 and 3.

We are delighted that our partnership with the Corporation is continuing, however we also feel that the time is right to expand our target audience and services.

Building on the respected reputation we have developed in the social housing sector, we are branching out into new markets and broader sustainability issues, such as sustainable communities.

As well as retaining and enhancing our core existing services, we can now offer a range of commercial training and consultancy services, focusing on the sustainable built environment and sustainable communities fields.

These include:

- Training on EcoHomes and the Code for Sustainable Homes;
- Sustainability and environmental policy development;
- Leadership programmes;
- Community engagement on sustainability issues; and
- Regeneration consultancy services.

For more information on these and our bespoke training programmes please contact us.



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VACANCY

Sustainable Homes is currently recruiting for a Head of Sustainable Homes (salary in the region of £50,000 including prp). We are looking for a social entrepreneur to lead the growth of this exciting new business. For further details and for information on how to apply please see our website – www.sustainablehomes.co.uk. Closing date 18 August.



Sustainable Homes is supported by an Innovation and Good Practice Grant from the Housing Corporation

Excellent!

We are pleased to confirm that since it was included as a case study in our recent guide 'EcoHomes: Achieving Very Good', the scheme by Western Challenge Housing Association at Seldown in Poole, Dorset has been awarded an EcoHomes Excellent rating. The 86 unit scheme was very much a partnership with the Borough of Poole, achieving maximum points for installing low NOx boilers and zero ozone depleting insulation. It also scored well on local amenities and public transport, resulting in the development achieving the aims of being affordable, repeatable and sustainable. For further information contact Hugh Lambourne, Regional Development Manager, on 01425 283659 or hugh.lambourne@spinnakergroup.co.uk.

EcoHomes extends to existing buildings

BRE, in collaboration with the Housing Corporation, have launched EcoHomes XB. It is a complete tool for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to judge their own environmental performance of their management structure and their existing housing stock, highlighting properties that are in need of attention. The tool is easy to use as it draws on existing data already to hand within RSLs and other readily accessible information.

BRE has worked very closely with the Housing Corporation to ensure that EcoHomes XB is as user-friendly as possible, being organised around a list of practical, adoptable measures. It adapts the BREEAM/EcoHomes methodologies to the constraints of existing stock. Topics covered by EcoHomes XB are: management policies, energy, transport, pollution, water, health and waste.

EcoHomes XB has taken just over two years to complete. Its development has involved consultation with a range of stakeholders including housing associations, local authorities, EcoHomes assessors, and other interested parties. The scheme has been piloted twice, and a number of housing associations and local authorities have participated. The assessment is also applicable



Re-roofing being undertaken by Ocean Housing Group, who trialled XB on two estates.

Help is at hand

The Housing Corporation is providing support to housing associations wishing to undertake EcoHomes XB by funding two sources of help. As mentioned on the front page, Sustainable Homes has been funded to develop a programme of training seminars for housing associations, as well as a published guide. This project will complement a series of free training seminars run by BRE.

Sustainable Homes Seminars

22 November, Birmingham
 7 December, Manchester
 16 January, Newcastle
 30 January, London
 20 February, London
 14 March, Bristol

BRE Seminars:

12 September, Exeter
 21 September, Leicester
 3 October, London
 18 October, Leeds
 9 November, Newcastle

Contact: info@sustainablehomes.co.uk

Contact: breeam@bre.co.uk

to local authority landlords, representing some 2.2 million homes.

Call for case studies

We will be updating our case study library as part of the Housing Corporation funded project to upgrade the Sustainable Homes website – www.sustainablehomes.co.uk. We would like to hear from you if you are a social housing provider who has recently completed new build developments achieving an EcoHomes rating of Very Good and above. In addition we are also looking for sustainable refurbishment case studies to support our project on EcoHomes XB. For more information or to submit a case study please contact Clare Wilson on 020 8973 0429 or email cwilson@hastoe.com.

Jon Rouse, Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation, commented: "Although currently a voluntary measure, EcoHomes XB has the potential to support environmental improvements across all four million existing homes owned and managed by housing associations and local authorities. Designed to be easy to use, not only is this a cost-effective way for social landlords to celebrate their achievements, it can also bring genuine cost-savings to residents."

For more information on EcoHomes XB please see www.ecohomes.org (new users need to register to access the information).

What's your policy?

Sustainable Homes is undertaking a project on behalf of the Housing Corporation to research and gather best practice examples in the establishment and implementation of sustainability policies in housing associations. The project will result in the production of a summary best practice guide to showcase effective policies and their

implementation. We will shortly be conducting a postal survey with housing associations to ascertain their current policy arrangements. We will also be compiling examples of policies. If you would like further information on this project or if you would like to provide policy examples please contact Clare Wilson on 020 8973 0429 or cwilson@hastoe.com.



Providing an alternative to the private car

Increased pressure for parking spaces, especially in urban locations and high density apartment blocks, coupled with the need for more sustainable modes of transport, have brought about a recent change in thinking on parking in new developments.

Car clubs can provide the solution. Developers who provide parking bays for car club cars find that this not only acts as a marketing incentive, but that pressure on private parking space is reduced. Research has shown that by making a shared car available for when residents need one, each car club vehicle can replace up to

six private cars. Not only does this bring benefits of cost savings and convenience for the individual, providing a more sustainable alternative to private car ownership, it also benefits the developer, who gains from decreased parking ratios and extra space for units.

Swansea Housing Association (SHA) runs a successful car club at one of its city centre developments.

Six vehicles are available for SHA staff and residents at a cost of £4 for a morning or afternoon session. SHA staff members run the club, but this is usually done by specialist car club

One Planet Products Expands

One Planet Products, a new bulk-buying initiative for sustainable building products and materials has been busy expanding its team. Supplier Manager and Product Specialist, Jess Hrivnak, will primarily be involved in liaising with sustainable building suppliers, sourcing new products and materials, whilst Kate Millbank, who has taken on the role of Marketing Manager, will be dealing with all marketing matters, communications and press. For more information on One Planet Products please call 020 8404 4880 or email info@oneplanetproducts.com.

operators.

In response to demand from developers and housing associations, Carplus is organising a series of seminars on the topic of 'Car clubs in new developments'. The next seminars will be in Birmingham and Glasgow in October/November. For more information go to www.carplus.org.uk/carplus/breathingfreshair.htm. To complement the seminars a 'Car clubs in property developments' guide is available to download at <http://www.carplus.org.uk/Resources/carplus-resources.htm>.

Residents benefitting from the Swansea Housing Association Car Club.



Empowering tenants to save energy

When it comes to climate change and saving energy, homeowners and tenants alike question what they can actually do to make a difference. For tenants it can be especially daunting, as asking them to insulate lofts and walls or change their boiler is not feasible.

That is why the Energy Saving Trust, in partnership with the Housing

Corporation, has produced a new tenant empowerment training toolkit, which actively encourages tenants to save energy. It shows how people can make changes to their own lifestyles and press for action by working together and in partnership with other organisations.

The toolkit covers basic topics such as the impact of energy use on climate change, simple tips for no cost energy saving and how to change energy suppliers. There are also useful tools to help tenants take action in their communities, like giving a presentation on sustainable energy, running fun activities for group participation and how to design effective publicity materials and achieving media coverage.

To get your free copy of the tenant empowerment training toolkit, which includes a CD of all the presentation materials, please contact the Energy Saving Trust on myhome@est.org.uk or by calling 0845 120 7799, quoting 'tenant toolkit'.

Updating your details

From time to time it is necessary to do a complete overhaul of our database to ensure that we hold correct and up to date information for all our contacts. Forms are now being sent out and we would be grateful if you could complete and return these as soon as possible. If you receive one for an ex-colleague, please let us know so that we can delete their details from our database. Thank you.

WWF wins campaigning award

Last month WWF beat off tough competition to win the British Renewable Energy Advocacy Award 2006 for its One Million Sustainable Homes (OMSH) campaign at an awards dinner organised by the Renewable Energy Association, and hosted by Bill Oddie, in London.

WWF's Sustainable Homes Policy Officer Jo Wheeler collected the award for "the NGO, campaign, publication or association that has done most to enhance awareness of renewables in the public and/or key opinion formers", bestowed for various OMSH campaigning activities to promote renewable energy in the UK.



Jo Wheeler collecting WWF's award from Dan Rigden of ReNews.

DIARY DATES

12 September – Exeter

21 September – Leicester

3 October – London

18 October – Leeds

9 Newcastle – Newcastle

EcoHomes XB Training

Seminars Organised by the BRE

Contact: www.ecohomes.org or email bream@bre.co.uk.

12 September

Designing with renewable energy

A one day conference looking at successfully incorporating renewable energy into the built environment. London

Contact: 0845 056 8069, constructconferences@emap.com or www.ajrnewables.co.uk

12 – 14 September

The Recycling & Waste Management Exhibition 2006

The UK's LEADING dedicated event for the Recycling & Waste Management Industry. NEC, Birmingham www.rwmexhibition.com

24 – 25 October

Delivering Environmentally and Socially Sustainable New Communities

A two day conference to examine whether we are delivering truly sustainable communities and how we can do better.

London. Contact: 020 7787 1210; conference@thewater-front.co.uk or www.thewaterfront.co.uk

31 October

Decent Homes: Achieving Best Value and Top Performance

This comprehensive event is designed to equip housing professionals with the finest practical advice and insights into the policy agenda post 2010.

Earls Court Conference Centre, London
Contact: Faith Stewart on 020 7874 0649 or faith.stewart@emap.com

22 November, Birmingham

7 December, Manchester

16 January, Newcastle

30 January, London

20 February, London

14 March, Bristol

EcoHomes XB Training

Free Seminars Organised by Sustainable Homes. Contact: 020 8973 0429 or info@sustainablehomes.co.uk

Sustainable Homes

For more information on the work of Sustainable Homes contact us:
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